centres would be located one each at Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwa Vidhyalaya Palampur, Y.S. Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry, Solan and Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla.

Agreements made with Mangolia for Agricultural Cooperation

2937. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India has signed a five year work plan with Mangolia for co-operation in agricutural sector and a friendship form is in the process of being set-up;

(b) whether during the Vice-President's visit to Mangolia in 1996 agriculture was agreed upon to be the main area of bilateral co-operation;

(c) whether Mangolia is reaching out to the world community for translating its animal husbandry resources; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to see that the benefit reaches to the poor farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYAN RAO):—(a) to (d) During the Vice-President's visit to Mangolia in 1996, agriculture was agreed upon as one of the areas for bilateral co-operation between the two countries and an Agreement for co-operation in the field of agriculture between the Government of India and the Government of Mangolia was signed on 16th September, 1996. The Agreement provides for Scientific, Technical and Economic Cooperation invarious areas of agriculture. An Indo-Mangolian friendship farm was also set up on 19th May, 1997 at Darkhan, Mangolia, with the aim of assisting Mangolia in increasing food production through supply of seeds, development of cold resistant varieties, training of Mangolian scientists in Indian Institutions, etc. Under the Agreement a Work Plan for cooperation in the field of agriculture between India and Mangolia was signed on 28th January, 2000 for the period 2000-2005. The Work Plan contains proposals for exchange of seed samples; exchange of scientific and technical information; training of Mangolian Specialists in India and study visits of Indian Specialists to Mangolia in various fields of agriculture and animal husbandry; setting up direct contacts between agricultural research institutions of the two countries, etc. Mutual cooperation in the field of agriculture under the Agreement/Work Plan envisages agricultural development in both countries beneficial to farmers.